

MINUTES OF MEETING Eastern Sussex County TMT Meeting April 13, 2005



Lewes Fire Company

Date: April 20, 2005
Meeting Date: April 13, 2005
Legation: Legyer Fire Com

Location: Lewes Fire Company

Purpose: Eastern Sussex County Transportation Management Team (TMT) Kickoff Meeting

List of Committee Members and Meeting Attendees:

See Attached Sheets

Handouts provided during the meeting:

- Eastern Sussex County TMT Contact List
- Sussex County Transportation Map

I. Opening Remarks

Note: A severe fire was in progress in the Georgetown/Millsboro region at time of meeting.

Gene Donaldson (DelDOT TMC) welcomed the group and each attendee introduced himself or herself. Gene gave a background on the TMT concept including a breakdown of how the state was divided into six TMTs. At the Sussex County TMT Kickoff in March, the group agreed to proceed with three TMTs in Sussex County – Western (US 13), Central (US 113), and Eastern (SR 1).

Gene also reviewed statewide issues that were coming up at every TMT meeting such as improving DelDOT's after-hour response. He added that a Working Group was being set up to focus on improving inter-agency communication statewide.

Gene stated that a TMT webpage has been developed for meeting minutes, schedules, and other needed information.

http://www.deldot.net/static/projects/tmt/index.html

Gene mentioned that the May TMT meetings would be combined meetings with a buffet dinner and special presentation by the National Weather Service. The New Castle County TMTs will meet on May 2nd (7:00pm) at the Delaware City Fire Hall. The Kent and Sussex TMTs will meet on May 17th (7:00pm) at the Carlisle of Milford Fire Hall.

II. Presentation

Joe Gavin (Army Corp of Engineers – Philadelphia District) gave a presentation on the "Delmarva Hurricane Evacuation Study." The study covered the following five items:

- Hazard overview of water levels during a hurricane using a "slush" analysis
- Vulnerability determination of evacuation zones
- Behavioral forecasting public reaction
- Shelter number of shelters, locations, and an estimate of how many people would use shelters
- Transportation time to evacuate and clear roads before gale force winds appear

Joe presented a hard copy of the Sussex County map from the Hurricane Evacuation Study, which is available on the Internet at: http://www.nap.usace.army.mil/HES/delmarva.htm.



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Requests for Mr. Gavin's presentation can be made via email to <u>Joseph.P.Gavin@usace.army.mil</u>.

III. Open Discussion

Coverage Areas

Gene started by asking what areas are concerns for Eastern Sussex County. He gave an example that Northern New Castle County TMT is focusing on I-95 while Central Sussex County TMT is focusing on east-west routes along US 113. The group agreed to begin with SR 1.

Craig Stephens (DE Fire School) inquired about knowing DelDOT's future plans for roadway projects along SR 1 and the surrounding areas. The discussion primarily focused on the congestion along the east-west roads, specifically summer beach traffic. The group agreed that further discussion is needed especially on DelDOT's future roadway construction plans. Gene stated that DelDOT's planners would be involved in future discussions.

Evacuation Plan

Jamie Turner (DEMA) stated that he is very concerned about the possibility of a hurricane hitting Delaware this summer. He mentioned that an evacuation could be ordered by the Governor, but it has to be done 36 hours in advance, which can lead to significant public relations problems. Jamie brought up the issue of Ocean City, MD traffic traveling through Delaware during any evacuation. He suggested that one option to help ease congestion is to have a staggered evacuation.

Gene mentioned another problem is that local residents are reluctant to leave during an evacuation. Buzzy Bayles (Ocean City EMA) mentioned the effective use of State Police and local fire personnel in assisting with traffic movement. Mr. Bayles asked how long Delaware needed to set up for a coastal evacuation, so that Ocean City, MD could communicate and plan accordingly. Jeff Reed (DelDOT/South District) said they do not have total setup times because there is only enough manpower and resources for partial setups in critical areas.

Roger Willey (DSP – Troop 7) asked if all of signals along the hurricane evacuation routes were on the computerized signal network. Gene stated that the SR 1 signals are "on-line," but there are several critical intersections along US 113 (e.g., US 113 & DE 404) that will be added to the system this summer. Gene also mentioned that other system improvements would include CCTV cameras at critical intersections and VMS boards along the primary routes.

"Clear-the-Road" Policy

Gene mentioned to the group that a "Clear-the-Road" policy (already in place in Maryland and Texas) would help with traffic flow especially during emergencies and evacuations. He mentioned that a TMT Steering Committee has been formed to address the need for any new legislation or policies.

Leadership

Due to the limited attendance (because of the fire) the leadership for the Eastern Sussex County TMT was not discussed. It will be discussed at the June meeting.



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IV. Action Items

See attached spreadsheet.

V. Next Meeting

The group proposed to hold future meetings on the second Wednesday of each month.

The May meeting will be a joint meeting with the Kent and Sussex TMTs on May 17 (7:00pm) at the Carlisle of Milford Fire Hall. The meeting will include a buffet dinner and a special presentation by the National Weather Service.

The next Eastern Sussex County TMT meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wed., June 8th at 7:00pm at the Lewes Fire Hall.

Any questions or concerns can be directed to Gene at <u>gene.donaldson@state.de.us</u> or (302) 659-2404. Additionally, Edwards and Kelcey is providing consulting support and helping assist DelDOT in coordinating the efforts. Matt Buckley and Mike Domboski can be reached at <u>mbuckley@ekmail.com</u> / (610) 701-7000 and <u>mdomboski@ekmail.com</u> / (610) 701-7000, respectively.



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List of Committee Members and Meeting Attendees:

"X" in attendance

	Austin	Steve	Emergency Responder Safety Institute	steveaustin@earthlink.net			
	Baker	Billy	Carlisle of Milford Fire Company & DE Fire School	_			
	Banks	Keith	Rehoboth Beach Police	kbanks@rehobothpd.state.de.us			
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	Bock	Ken	DelDOT/DTC	ken.bock@state.de.us			
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	Gavin	Joe	Army Corp of Engineers (Philadelphia)	Joseph.P.Gavin@usace.army.mil			
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	Hammond	Eddie	Millville Fire Company	-			
	Hawkins	Steve	Indian River of Oak Orchard Fire Company				



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	Parsons	Bob	Memorial of Slaughter Beach Fire Company	
	Pettyjohn	Kevin	Carlisle of Milford Fire Company	
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	Reynolds	Walt	Lewes Fire Company	Pastchief82@sisna.com
	Rogers	Lynn	Milton Fire Company	
X	Saville	Garland	Millville Volunteer Fire Company	
	Short	Richard	Greenwood Fire Company & Sussex EOC	rshort@sussexcountyde.gov
	Smith	Edward	DE National Guard	Edward.smith@de.ngb.army.mil
X	Stephens	Craig	DE Fire School	craig.stephens@state.de.us
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Eastern Sussex County TMT Action Items

Action Item (Date Assigned)	Priority	"Data" Needs	Assigned	Submitter(s)	Task Leader	Legislation / Policies?	Status	Comments
Develop TMT plans for Critical Roadways (4/13/05) East - West Routes SR 1	Med	Traffic volumes & roadway capacities Accident data Bridges - height & weight restrictions DelTrac tools (existing and proposed) Detour route checklist Roadway construction (existing and proposed) Capital Transportation Program	4/13/2005	Gene Donaldson - DelDOT			Ongoing	
2 Improve DeIDOT's After-Hour Response (4/13/05 STATEWIDE TMT ACTION ITEM	High	List of available resources (per time of day) List of DelDOT communication tools					Ongoing	
3 Establish TMT Communications Working Group (Apr. 05 Upgrading radios Identifying who is in charge Reporting critical information Notification checklist Understanding roles & responsibilities Knowing what's at the scene (dispatching) STATEWIDE TMT ACTION ITEM	High	Agency points of contact for subcommittee TMC communication (reporting information) list List of agency communication resources List of common terminology List of dispatch points-of-contact (e.g., Sussex EOC)					Ongoing	
4 Future Plans for DelDOT Roadway Projects (4/13/05	High	List of future projects DelDOT Planning representation	4/13/2005	Craig Stephens - DE Fire School			Ongoing	
5 Evacuations (4/13/05) 24-hour goal during State of Emergency "Clear-the-road" policy	High	Evacuation routes map Roadway capacities	4/13/2005	Jamie Tumer - DEMA			Ongoing	